

IMMUNIZATION BY INOCULATION OF DNA TRANSCRIPTIONAL UNIT

ABSTRACT

This invention relates to a method of immunizing an individual, comprising introducing into the individual a DNA transcriptional unit which comprises DNA encoding a desired antigen or antigens. The uptake of the DNA transcriptional unit by host cells results in the expression of the desired antigen or antigens thereby eliciting humoral or cell-mediated immune responses or both humoral and cell-mediated responses. The elicited humoral and cell-mediated immune response can provide protection against infection by pathogenic agents, provide an anti-tumor response, or provide contraception. The host can be any vertebrate, avian or mammal, including humans.